

(12) UK Patent Application (19) GB (11) 2 375 208 (13) A

(43) Date of A Publication 06.11.2002

(21) Application No 0111125.1

(22) Date of Filing 05.05.2001

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(51) INT CL⁷
B60R 25/10 , G08B 15/00

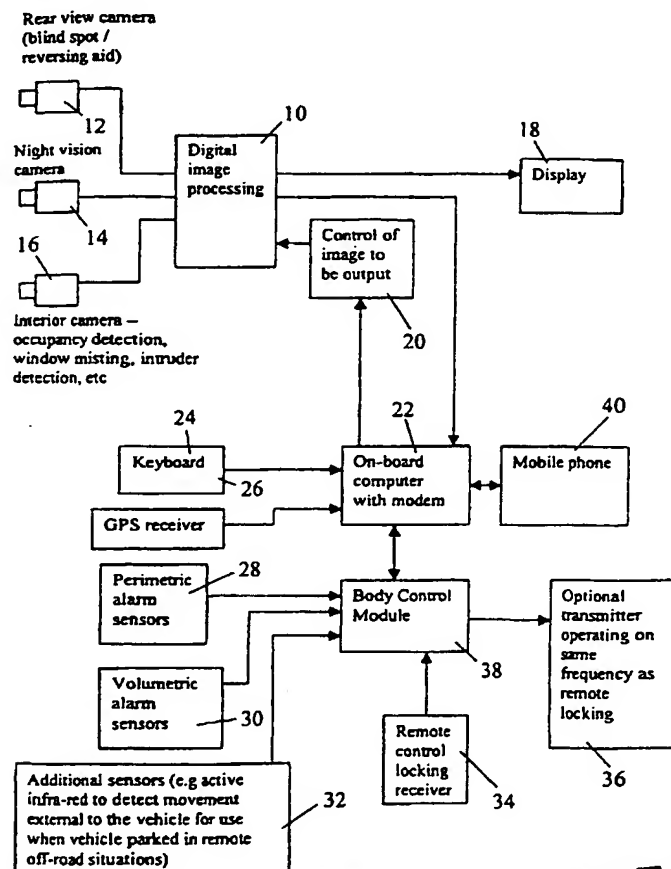
(52) UK CL (Edition T)
G4N NDAX NHVX

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(58) Field of Search
UK CL (Edition T) G4N NDAX NHVX
INT CL⁷ B60R 25/10 , G08B 15/00
Online: EPODOC, JAPIO, WPI

(54) Abstract Title
Vehicle security system

(57) A security system for a motor vehicle having a telecommunications system and a remote locking system. A transmitter 36 is provided for transmitting a distress signal at the frequency of the remote locking system when an alarm condition is detected by the security system. Vehicles equipped with similar systems may therefore communicate with one another and establish a surveillance network in which different vehicles can offer assistance to one another.



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VEHICLE SECURITY SYSTEMField of the invention

5 The present invention relates to a vehicle security systems.

Background of the invention

10 Vehicle security systems, especially for public transport vehicles, have already been proposed, for example in US 5,926,210, that make use of on-board cameras to record events taking place within and outside a vehicle. The cameras are used to record image data when a panic button is
15 pressed or when an impact sensor detects a collision. The image data is recorded on disc and may also be relayed to a remote location by a radio link.

20 Intrusion detectors that incorporate a video recording system are also known, for example from FR 2,784,065, which transmit not only the visual data but also data locating the position where the recording took place.

25 A problem encountered with a security system having even this level of sophistication is that the radio or the vehicle cellular telephone system, which is relied upon to summon assistance, may be out of action for a variety of reason. For example, its external antenna may have been broken or the vehicle may simply be out of range of a
30 telephone cell.

Object of the invention

35 The present invention seeks therefore to provide a security system that is capable of summoning help even in the event of failure of its own radio communication system.

Summary of the invention

According to one aspect of the present invention, there is provided a security system for a motor vehicle having a telecommunications system and a remote locking system, characterised by a transmitter for transmitting a distress signal at the frequency of the remote locking system when an alarm condition is detected by the security system.

In this aspect of the invention, use is made of the remote locking system to transmit a distress signal so that assistance may be requested even when the telecommunications system is inoperative for any reason.

According to a second aspect of the invention, there is provided a motor vehicle fitted with a security system having a telecommunications system and with a remote locking system, characterised by a radio receiver operating at the frequency of the remote locking system and a decoder for sensing when a distress signal is received from another near-by vehicle by the latter receiver, the telecommunications system of the security system being operative to relay a signal to a remote location in response to receipt of the distress signal from the near-by vehicle.

In this aspect of the invention, help is summoned from near-by vehicles so that in the event of the telecommunications system of the vehicle under attack being inoperative, the telecommunications system of a near-by vehicle can be used to relay a request for assistance to a remote location.

By fitting all the vehicles of a given manufacturer, or indeed all vehicles, with a means for communicating with one another over the radio band used the remote locking system, the invention can provide a network of vehicle security systems that look out for each other as well as for

